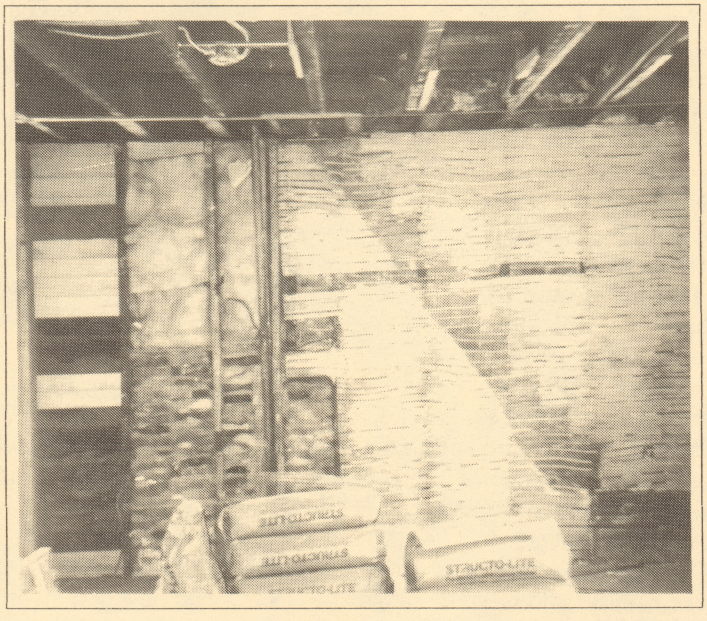
WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 SEPTEMBER 1998

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

KAREN'S COLUMN:
MoMS GRANT WORK COMPLETED, SURPRISES CONTINUE; COLUMNIST VISITS KELLOGGSVILLE, NEW YORK

Detailing the summer's happenings at the Museum house could fill each page of this newsletter! I will only be able to touch on the highlights. The most significant news is that the interior restoration work covered by our Historic Preservation Grant is now complete.

Our contractor, The Renewal Company, did a superb job not only in their careful and complete restoration work but also in handling the inevitable unexpected circumstances they encountered. Old buildings are full of surprises, as anyone knows who has ever launched into a remodeling project!

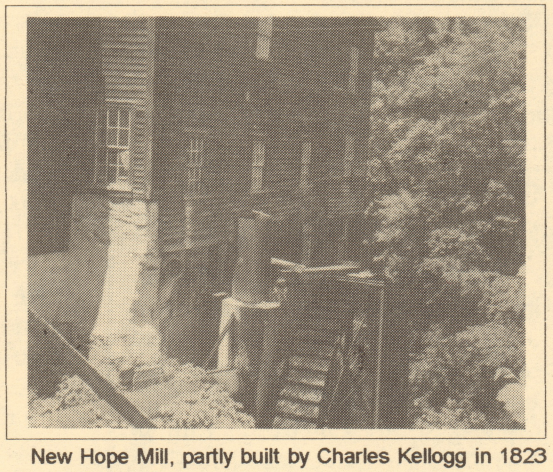


Photos by Karen O'Neal

Shadow of former stairs shows on expanded lath in east exhibit room of Museum house.

In the east exhibit room, during the plaster repair, the shadow of an old stairway came to light. (Imagine the Kellogg family members hurrying up and down those steps, steps with such high risers and narrow tread.)

When work progressed to the ceiling, damage from a fire that had nearly burned through the attic floor above was discovered. (What had been the cause of the fire so many years ago?) It looked significant and as though it could have consumed the whole house if not caught in time. The house reveals only that there had been a fire. It does not tell us the "Rest of the Story."



New Hope Mill, partly built by Charles Kellogg in 1823 near Kelloggsville.

Necessary repairs of the damage to the structure of the house had to be made. This caused some delay in our schedule.

In July I took a side trip as I drove to the east coast on vacation. I stopped in Kelloggsville, a small town in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. I wanted to visit the place the Kellogg family had come from, the place the brothers, Dwight, Dor and Dan Kellogg, had left to come to Ann Arbor.

I was delighted to find the Charles Kellogg house and mill. The mill is still in operation. The house looks well cared for and lived-in. When the museum opens we plan to have a pancake breakfast made from stone-ground flour from the New Hope Mill.

(Continued on page 6.)

'ANN ARBOR IN 1849 GOLD RUSH: LETTERS HOME' RUSSELL BIDLACK'S TOPIC

During the California Gold Rush in 1849 the folks back home were anxious to hear how the hometown gold seekers were doing and local newspapers published their letters home.

Dr. Russell Bidlack, dean emeritus of the former School of Library Science, now School of Information, will talk about "Ann Arbor in the 1849 Gold Rush: Letters Home" at the WCHS meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, September 20 at the Bentley Historical Library.

The library is at 1150 Beal on the University of Michigan North Campus.

TWO MEMBERS HONORED

Two long-time Board members who retired were recognized with certificates. Patricia Austin was honored for 20 years of meritorious service as president, fund raiser and financial supporter. She was elected a Life Member by the Board.

Arlene Schmid was honored for nine years of meritorious service. As chair of the Education Committee, Arlene educated and entertained children and adults with our 'What's It" games. She also arranged for teachers to use our loan boxes–"Life Before Electricity" and "From Hats to Spats." She was presented with an 1880 birdseye map of Ann Arbor.

WCHS HAS 88% OF POINTS NEEDED FOR MEMORY BOOK

WCHS now has 17,621 points , 88% of the 20,000 needed for a memory book to record names of donors to our Museum on Main Street.

Anyone who eats at Bill Knapp's Restaurants may request a yellow points slip from the cashier each time. One point is given for each dollar spent. Please give or send to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

A FEAST FOR THE EYE

A SAMPLING OF STAINED GLASS IN DETROIT

When we talk about the history of Washtenaw County we generally talk about the 1800s. But we are going into Detroit so we'll have to drop it back a hundred years," Barbara Krueger, stained glass historian who guided the WCHS June tour, said.

We have to remember the French were here long before the English were. Detroit is getting ready to celebrate its 300th anniversary.

The first church we are going to visit dates back to that time, not the building but the parish.

"If you think about it most major cities and even minor cities in the U.S. are all on a body of water, whether it be a river, the ocean or a lake. That was for defensive purposes and ease of transportation. It affected the settlement pattern.

"When Detroit spread out it was natural that they spread further and further from the river. Many people think that the decline of Detroit was in 1977. Let me tell you that the decline of Detroit and many major cities probably began at the end of the Civil War.

"With the railroads people could move out further. Before 1900 somebody could go out and buy 200 acres of land. Ford facilities were purchased around 1900. Then workers would move out to be closer to their work.

"After World War I a lot of the wealthy people wanted to have summer homes out in Grosse Pointe. First thing you know they changed it into a year around house.

Immigrants--Germans, Lithuanians, Polish and Germans in Ann Arbor's Old West Side were focused around their church.

In 1880 there was a Spanish-American enclave where St. Anne's is.

"Before zoning, as people began to move out, they were looking for cleaner air. Then inter-urban railroads came, then automobiles. When you see pictures of early 20th century Detroit you have cars going every which way. Detroit was one of the first cities that began to break up that way.

ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1000 St. Anne at Howard St.

"This is the eighth structure (1886), first one built in 1701 within Cadillac's fort. Fr. Richard came to St. Anne's 1798; built the 7th church in 1818,

Present structure has twin towers with octagonal drums and spires; flying buttresses, large rose window. Some stained glass signed. Good example of Gothic style architecture, she says in her handout.

"Look at the inscriptions on these windows because they are a Who's Who of Catholic Detroit from that era.

French names include Medard Beauvais, Anable Brossard, Aldezure Rousseau, Monsieur et Madame Isidore Carre, Famille Richard Beaubien, Madam Columbus Campau, Famille Guillaume Groesbeck and Famille Francois Monnier.

"We are going to other churches that have English and German origins. Look for names of entrepreneurs and business people--they had the most money and were able to support the church.

"Stained glass was not made in the U.S. as an industry until after 1840. Prior to that stained glass had to be imported and even after that the vast majority of it was imported for quite a while.

"The Detroit Stained Glass works started in Detroit in 1861. That was real early in the total scheme of stained glass in the U.S. Right before the Civil War they were really starting to have a building boom here.

Church Photos by Susan Wineberg

Trinity Episcopal Window

"The two men who started the company both had come from Germany as many stained glass artisans did to studios in the U.S."

She pointed out some simple windows with no figural work placed up high and suggested they probably came from church number seven.

Then she pointed out some very ornate figural windows "probably imported because of the complexity of the painting on the faces--very exquisite."

"There were not many stained glass companies in the U.S. doing that kind of work that early. Also the style is what one would see in European churches.

"The one unusual thing is the top tracery in different shades of green, red and blue. I wonder if the main part of the windows were made elsewhere and locals did the top tracery part. We know for a fact that this was done in one church we are going to because some actual proof has recently been found.

"The painting style really is exquisite--details in the drapery, the face, the hair. We have a lot of different saints--we are not really going to talk about liturgical significance. The saint may have a whole different story in different cultures.

"Two large transept windows are relatively new. They replace older windows blown out in a storm."

"Noting some deteriorating paint, she said it was fired either too low or too high. Sometimes over zealous custodial help goes in to clean them, most likely accel-

ST. ANNE'S SECOND OLDEST PARISH IN UNITED STATES

The first church WCHS visited on its stained glass tour of Detroit in June was the home of the second oldest parish in the United States and the earliest in Detroit.

It was St. Anne de Detroit Roman Catholic Church first established within Cadillac's fort. The 1886 structure that tourgoers saw is the eighth.

The only older U.S. Catholic parish is in St. Augustine, Florida.

erating deterioration. The idea if you want to clean stained glass windows is to use a feather duster, not harsh chemicals.

"You notice all the pews are numbered. I think if you go into St. Andrew's in Ann Arbor they are too. People used to pay for them.

"We're going to see this image of Christ and the little children again today in different form. There are two men off to the left we are going to see again.

"Over here is the Nativity scene. You'll notice they have different coloration than the windows we just saw. The painting on the clothing looks like somebody took a sponge and did it.

"This window is going to get all the strong afternoon sun. Generally, we find those windows are darker in color because if they were lighter it would nearly blind you."

Barbara challenged tourgoers to see if they could find the artist's signature on a couple of windows. "There are no records but as you go around the state and see lots of windows you can say Detroit Stained Glass works easily could have done this."

"The other thing is there were pattern books for everything so anybody could have made it.

"Detroit Stained Glass works kind of had things locked up here for about 20 years doing a lot of local stuff but it wasn't until they got a couple of people on staff from Germany who were expert painters that they did the more complex type of work.

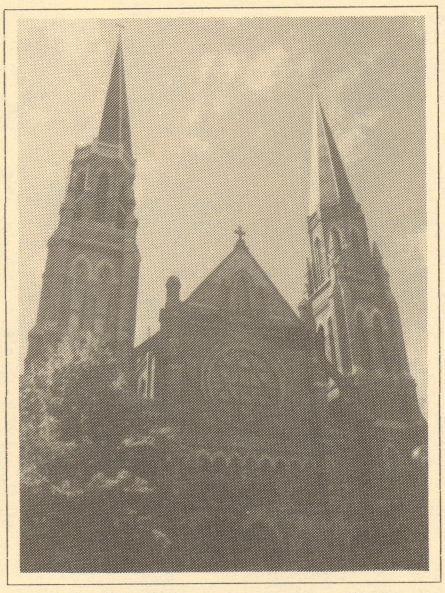
"There was a stigma against U.S. work because they didn't have a big background in figure painting. There are cases where they tore out windows and replaced them with German windows because they thought the figures were better.

"After World War I some were tore out again but in German congregations they kept them.

"Congregations have changed but families with windows with their name on them are getting involved. If you have any connection whatever with St. Anne you've gotten a letter or more. I hope local pride will take hold and keep them going."

A couple windows say Buffalo Stained Glass. Ms. Krueger suspects a priest had come from Buffalo and had a contact there.

"The reason the parish was named St. Anne goes back to the very first day within Fort Pontchartrain in 1701--it was St. Anne's holy day



St. Anne de Detroit

Fr. Dugan happened to come in when tourgoers were in the church. He said needed repair work is about a third done. The inside is in pretty good shape. They just got a $27,000 grant to renovate the organ. They need a sound system and they are having a lighting technician advise how they can enhance the lighting.

He said the outside of the building and St. Joseph Chapel need a lot of work. The east tower alone cost $370,000. The roof is slate with copper gutters and downspouts.

TOMB OF U-M CO-FOUNDER IN CHAPEL AT ST. ANNE'S

The tomb of Father Gabriel Richard, co-founder of the University of Michigan for whom the local Catholic high school is named, is in the St. Joseph Chapel attached to St. Anne's Church in Detroit.

Fr. Richard arrived in 1798. He died of cholera in Detroit in his 65th year in 1832. During his time in Detroit he wore several hats besides priest--patriot, founder of churches and schools, member of U.S. Congress, printer.

"He has been called "the second founder of Detroit." He co-founded the U-M with the Rev. John Monteith, a Protestant minister.

They plan a fund raising campaign for six million dollars. There are 750 families in the congregation.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1519 M.L. King at Trumbull

Architects Mason and Rice (1890-92), English Gothic Revival style.

"James Scripps, founder of the Detroit News, and his wife were major benefactors after leaving Christ Church. They visited England to see details to be incorporated in the Trinity building.

"Above the altar are five lancet windows by Mayer of Munich of the baptism of Christ. There are also several Willet Studio (Philadelphia) windows, two Tiffany Studio windows and several English windows.

"There are exterior gargoyles (downspouts) and interior angels. A church representative who greeted tourgoers said there are people who come to their soup kitchen who would never go into the church because the gargoyles make them think the members are devil worshippers. They don't know there are angels inside," he said.

"About three years ago a group of us did a stained glass restoration project here," Barbara said. "This window had numerous holes in it.

"This church has a couple of Tiffany studio windows. Now let me tell you something about Tiffany. Mr. Tiffany himself did not make those windows. The analogy I use is how many cars do you think Henry Ford made?

"Tiffany coloring is in the glass. It's very different from other windows that are painted.

"In the late 1920s there was a master plan for a window in the back. The design was lost, the Depression and then World War II came along.

"In the early 1960s a sexton (janitor) found the rolled up plan behind one of the radiators. The rector at the time went to the son of the woman who originally commissioned the window who in turn went to the son of the man who originally designed it.

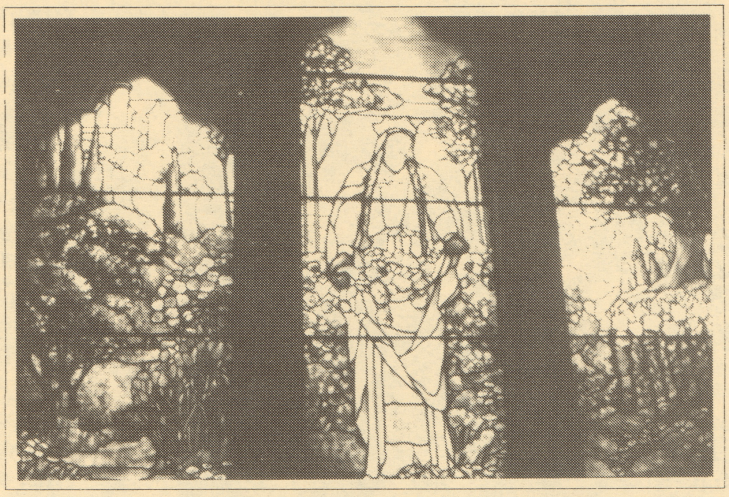
"They consecrated that window in 1965. It has all the elements of the Apocalypse or Book of Revelation. Until the recent renovation it had a bullet hole in it from the 1967 riots.

"The Willet Stained Glass studio in Philadelphia is having its 100th anniversary this year. Remember I told you the Detroit Stained Glass studio started in 1861. It closed its doors in 1971 so the Detroit studio had 110 years in business. It was run by the same family until it closed.

"The Willet studio is now operated by a

grandson of the original Willet but none of his children are interested in carrying on.

"James Scripps, publisher of the Detroit News, originally belonged to Christ Episcopal Church where we are going next but they had a falling out so he came out here and started this church."



Christ Episcopal Church, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Tiffany window

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 960 E. Jefferson

Parish founded in 1845. Original wooden church serviced by the Rev. William Lyster. Rear stone chapel built in 1860 and wood church torn down while present building, designed by Architect Gordon Lloyd, was being constructed in 1863.

(In Ann Arbor, Lloyd designed St. Andrew's Episcopal and First Congregational Churches, Harris Hall and the entrance to Forest Hill Cemetery.)

Lloyd was born in England, moved to Quebec as a child, returned to England when his father died, and studied at the Royal Academy before returning to the midwest where he designed numerous churches.

"Christ Church, Detroit, is Gothic Revival style with a four-stage tower

"It has an excellent variety of stained glass: Munich, English, Tiffany, Willet. It has a Lyster window and an Elizabeth of Hungary window," Barbara writes in her handout.

The stained glass book (*Discovering Stained Glass in Detroit* by Nola Tutag) implies that a window on the right is a Tiffany. Looking at all the paint that is on it tells you it isn't.

"I was talking to a gentleman who used to work in a stained glass studio. He remembers that back in the 1950s a Tiffany window was stolen out of a church in Detroit. I personally think that this is where it was stolen from.

"As you look at the window over the altar here it has a different sheen to it--that's an English window. I think it has a lot to do with the light in England.

As you turn around and look at the window behind you, you can see how different that window is in coloration. We saw a similar Willet window in the church we just came from.

"The first time I came here they said they didn't know who did that window. I looked at it a few minutes and said I'd be willing to bet it is a Willet window. I suggested going back in old church records.

"A couple days later someone called and said how did you know? It reaches a point after you've seen enough windows you start to recognize them.

"In Tiffany opalescent glass the color is soft looking. That does not mean that you could not go somewhere else and see opalescent glass that was not Tiffany but this is.

"It is supposed to be St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She had a lot of poor people around. She would put bread in her apron and go out in the morning and help feed the poor.

"Some of her brothers-in-law didn't like that so one day she was accosted and told to open her apron. And what do you think was there? Roses.

"The same image of a woman in a long white robe holding roses is in a triptych window in Washington D.C. It was put in as a memorial to World War II. This was before the era of copy machines but Tiffany, Willet, they all did the same thing--they sold their designs.

"You saw this picture of Christ and the little children before over at the Catholic Church. I said look at the two men off to the left. This window is called the Lyster Memorial Window because this man was the minister here at the time this church was built.

"This is his wife and kids, also in the picture. They sent photos to Germany and they were incorporated in the window.

"The Rev. William N. Lyster later went out from Detroit to the Irish Hills and planned churches in a lot of the smaller towns along the way. He was born in Ireland and attended the University of Dublin. He named the Irish Hills because they reminded him of his native land.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1345 Gratiot at Rivard

The congregation began in 1850 after a doctrinal dispute. The second structure on this site, it was constructed 1929-31.

It was the gift of Charles Gauss and his wife as a thank offering for polio recovery of their daughter.

"It is adjacent to the now demolished Stroh Brewery. The architect was William E.N. Hunter who did several out-state Methodist Churches. It is late Gothic Revival style with side tower.

"It has Detroit Stained Glass works windows along the aisle and in the community room with Willet Studio windows elsewhere in the building."

After a catered luncheon at Trinity a guide from the church conducted a tour of the church.

"Trinity Lutheran was down to about 50 people. Now Pastor David Eberhard's church is over 1,000 because he got people to come back. If their parents and grandparents had attended that church he asks them to come and support the church and it's working.

"Pastor Eberhard operates historic and cultural programs and activities for senior citizens at the church. They have a lot of dinners and used to have dinner theater.

Their historian, a former Lutheran pastor, 92, "comes every day, He has been with the parish 27 years. He has translated the German records."

"The windows were all put in in 1931. They are now being restored."

The guide took tourgoers through the pastor's study, hall of pastors (photos of pastors since the beginning in 1850), the wedding chapel and the church. The first church on the present site was built in 1866.

They have installed air conditioning and "thanks to a generous donor, an elaborate computerized lighting system.

"The only lighting in the church had been chandeliers and you could not see the beauty of the church, especially the ceiling."

Three windows were out being restored. They had restored the altar windows on site using scaffolding.

"This congregation started in 1850. While not the oldest Lutheran congregation in Detroit it is the oldest existing one," he said.

"The first Lutheran congregation was

St. Matthew's on the west side. It was founded by Pastor Schmid from Ann Arbor. He also founded Scio church and Trinity Lutheran, Monroe, among others. The Frankenmuth Church was founded by a different group of Germans.

"Pastor Schmid was very energetic because he used to walk to Detroit to give sermons. That's how he got Lutheranism started in Detroit.

"In those days pastors were all supreme and all powerful. They probably had more to say about your life than the mayor, the governor or anybody.

"Pastor Schmid excommunicated six members, nobody knows why. The elders wrote to him five or six times asking him to reinstate those members but he was just a bonehead German like so many are–he just threw away the requests.

"Those six men formed Trinity Lutheran Church. When you look back maybe God's hand was in it because Trinity survived, St. Matthew's didn't.

"Trinity used and eventually bought the frame church building on Larned down by the water used by Mariner's Church. They worshipped there 16 years from 1850-1866. Right after the Civil War they bought this property along Gratiot for $16,000 and built their first brick church.

"Although it seated 1,200, that church eventually was too small. By 1880-1900 their congregation had 1,600 members because there was a large German immigrant area along Gratiot, most Lutherans were on one side of Gratiot, most Catholics on the other side.

"St. Joseph Catholic Church across the way is still a very active church with a German background.

"Between 1902 and 1915-16 the congregation started to dwindle because people had automobiles and everyone wanted to live in the suburbs. The suburbs in those days were at Six Mile Road. They lost a lot of members to daughter congregations that they founded.

"Trinity tore down the parsonage and built a new parish hall. Their church was 60-70 years old and needed repairs. It was built before central heat and plumbing.

"They had meetings about what they should do. They first decided they should move. They bought property on Helen Street, a few miles east and attempted to start a church. The neighborhood got an injunction against them building.

"Then they thought they might merge with another congregation but they couldn't agree which pastor would be in charge.

Trinity Lutheran Church interior.

"At a voters meeting on Christmas Eve 1925, a member of the congregation stood up and said if they would build a new church on the same site he would underwrite the cost of it. Of course the congregation was shocked. They didn't know where Mr. Gauss had got all his money.

"He said he would spend up to $200,000 which was a huge amount in 1927, probably more like four million today. He went on to say that as a young man, an immigrant from Germany, he was a dishwasher at the old hotel.

"When he walked by the church one day the ushers invited him in. He never forgot how he was welcomed, being a stranger in a large city. He felt there should always be a downtown presence for a church to welcome strangers.

"So they tore down the old building and met for services in the parish hall where the tour luncheon was served until the present church was dedicated in 1931.

"It ended up costing $400,000 but Mr. Gauss paid the whole thing, as well as another $50,000 for a chapel at the Lutheran Home in Monroe.

"After he was a dishwasher he had a tobacco and candy business and he invested in a lot of property west of Detroit which became the City of Dearborn.

"He had property that was surrounded by property Henry Ford owned. Henry Ford, who was working on his Rouge complex, invited Mr. Gauss to dinner at Fairlane one day. After dinner they got in the car and went out to the property.

"Ford said I've got you landlocked and I want that property. What will you take for it? Mr. Gauss as a joke said he'd take a million dollars. Ford wrote him a check for a million dollars.

"Gauss did not spare any expense for the church. He and Dr. Otte, then pastor, traveled Europe to decide the type of church they wanted.

"The Skinner organ is one of four existing that have been unaltered. It is now being renovated. (The Skinner organ in Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor has been altered.)

"The congregation suffered many times as members moved away or died. Membership dwindled in the '70s to about 50 people, average age 80. The only thing that kept them open was that they had no debt.

"Dr. Otte was well beyond retirement age but wouldn't because he was afraid they would close the church and sell it. He just hung on.

"Dr. Eberhard came in 1981 to assist Dr. Otte who was in failing health and to evaluate the situation. The district was hoping that he would report that they should close and sell it but when he saw the beauty of the building and the history of the congregation he decided he would try to save it.

"Dr. Eberhard encourages various groups to use it. They have about 50 organizations meeting in the church. There's something going on every day. They have 25-50 weddings a year, many not Lutheran, they just like the setting.

Today they have about 1,105 members, 98 percent of them from the suburbs, four services a week and average age 37.

The guide invited tourgoers to come at Christmas when the church is lavishly decorated. Then the main tree has 9,000 lights on it."

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1828 Jay at Orleans

A "daughter" parish of nearby St. Mary's, members originally mostly German immigrants. Architect Francis Hempler, German-born, designed it 1870-73. The style is German "hall" church where nave and aisles are the same height.

The stained glass is by Mayer of Munich,

Tyrolese Art Glass of Innsbruck and Friedrichs and Staffin (predecessors of Detroit Stained Glass). The chancel windows may be the earliest Mayer glass in the U.S. The top canopy was made here.

"Actually the figures were done in Germany, the rest of the windows were probably made by Detroit Stained Glass works. An expert who did a lot of research found an architectural drawing minus the figures," Barbara said.

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM, Belle Isle

Stained glass from the ship City of Detroit III, which in 1912 was the largest side-wheeler in the world. It was designed by naval architect Frank E. Kirby, and the interior by Louis O. Keil. Those two teamed up for numerous Great Lakes side-wheelers and steamers.

The ship was dismantled in 1956 and parts sold. The museum acquired the Gothic Room, an ornate smoking salon and other parts in 1965.

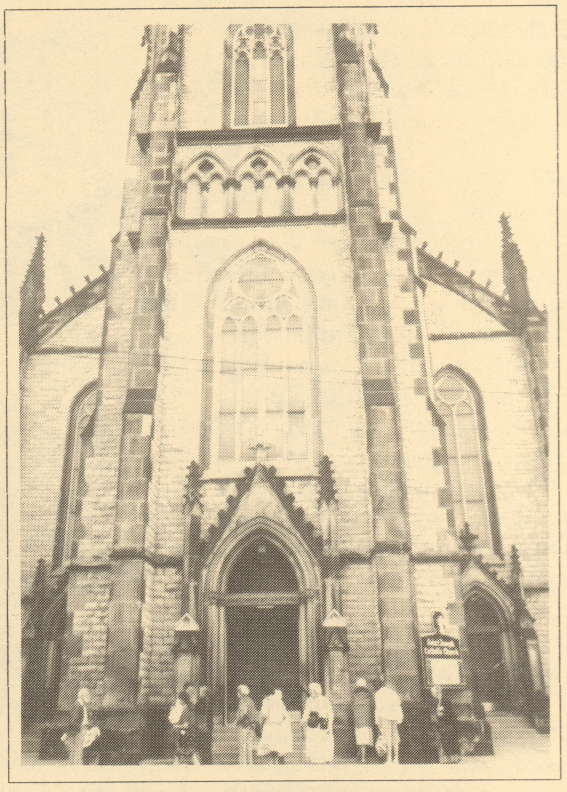
The City of Detroit III used to go from Detroit to Cleveland as an overnight cruise ship and freighter of the Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company or D. and C. Line. It was in service from about 1912 to 1956.

"The Detroit stained glass book says the glass was made in Detroit but in our census records, the person who filled them out said the glass was made in England," Barbara said.

"When we look at it there are some elements, particularly how the foliage is handled, that I've seen the same effect in a lot of American windows. Of course it could have been done by English stained glass people who moved to America.

"You don't often see a historic scene in stained glass. This one is titled, 'The French led by LaSalle Discover Detroit.'"

"It's more or less a made-up scene for it is anyone's guess as to who was really the first white man to see the Detroit area," the Detroit stained glass book says.



St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

KAREN'S COLUMN *(continued)*

A week later I visited David Oakley on Cape Cod. Mr. Oakley is a relative of the Kellogg family and has been very helpful to us by supplying amazing pictures and genealogical details of his ancestors.

He, too, has been working hard to restore an old house. The Captain David T. Bassett House (ca. 1840) is now transformed into the Chatham Visitor Center.

I was especially interested in his project because it is about the size and age of our Museum house. He encountered and solved many of the same challenges that we have had in our quest for a museum. I look forward to showing him our Museum on Main Street in the near future.

On a very somber note, we were all shocked to hear of the sudden death of David Evans on August 4. Quinn Evans/ Architects has been with us every step of the way on our Museum restoration.

I well recall walking through the house with David shortly after it was moved, hearing his approach to its restoration, learning that it would be possible and that he would help.

What you see at the corner of Main and Beakes today is the result of his vision and expertise. Our current contact from that firm, Mr. Paul Darling, will continue to assist us with architectural services, of course.

Karen O'Neal
665-2242

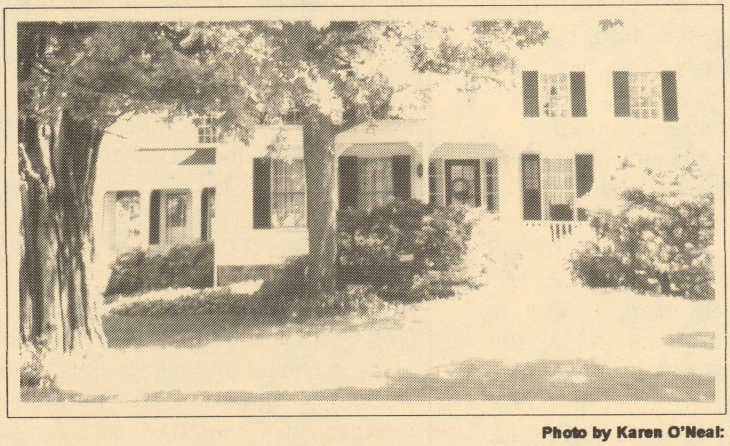


Photo by Karen O'Neal:

Home of Charles Kellogg, 1804-1838, founder of Kelloggsville, New York. He opened first store there in 1804.

RAFFLE WINNERS TOLD

The Princess Diana beanie baby donated by Dixboro General Store was raffled at the annual meeting. The winner was Jane Collins.

Other prizes and winners were a one-year membership in WCHS, Mary Cambruzzi; free autograph on quilt, George Fulton; a reprint of 100-year-old *Headlight*, Lisa Black; *View of a Universe* by Milo Ryan, Jean Smith; *The Changing Scene* (History of Burns Park area), Lisa Black; *Celebrating Our History, 160 Years of The Ann Arbor News*, Dolly Norris; *150 Years of History, The Ann Arbor News*, Pat Austin; *The Making of the University of Michigan*, Maralyn Jennings; and U-M Picture Book, Nancy Bryk.

The Society more or less broke even. The raffle was mostly a learning experience about raffle rules.

NO MORE BUS TOURS?

For years WCHS has sponsored a bus tour or field trip in June and tourgoers seemed to enjoy them whether they were in the county or afield in such places as Lansing or Ohio or Ontario. But of late years attendance is down and the Society has lost money on them, especially this year when only 20 persons attended.

The Board of Directors reluctantly voted in June not to have a tour next year. However, if there is a volunteer out there who would like to work on tours the Board would listen.

WCHS VISITS SALINE DEPOT MUSEUM, RED CABOOSE BEFORE ANNUAL POTLUCK AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The WCHS 1998 annual meeting, May 20, began with a visit to the Saline Historical Society's Depot Museum followed by a potluck dinner meeting at the First Presbyterian Church in Saline.

WCHS members snacked on appetizers as they viewed the Depot Museum's exhibit about Saline area one-room schools and toured the recently acquired red caboose.

After dinner at the church which is celebrating the centennial of its present sanctuary, WCHS was greeted and welcomed by Wayne Clements, president of Saline Historical Society, Mayor Richard Kuss and Al Valentine, chair of the church centennial.

Besides the depot restoration, Saline Historical Society's accomplishments include restoration of a Saline windmill, reconstruction by the depot of a much endangered barn, and production of a video highlighting business in Saline.

They also sponsored two showcase homes--the Webster turkey farm house in 1988 and the Teft house in 1992.

"As a result those houses were restored to the community as viable historic properties," WCHS Vice-president Ina Hanel noted in her introduction of Clements.

"We are proud about what we have done here in Saline to preserve our heritage and turn it into community pride," Clements said.

"One thing we have learned from the current project we have launched is that it takes a lot of cooperation with a lot of folks like the City of Saline, the Chamber of Commerce and all the people in the town who support us and donate or buy memorial bricks."

Wayne introduced Mayor Kuss as a "preservation mayor. He has balanced growth in Saline with a fine preservation attitude. A recent city purchase was the Rentschler farm on Michigan Avenue just east of the Ford plant."

They hope to turn it into a farm museum in a year or two.

"At the eleventh hour I heard through Wayne--Wayne hears about everything when it comes to history--there was a piece of property consisting of about 25 acres that was going to be sold," Mayor Kuss said.

"Not wanting it to become a strip mall, I went to Warren Rentschler and said we want the farm. What's it going to take? He said "X" amount of dollars. Before I knew it I had the vote of Council and I gave him a handshake--that's all farmers need.

"I called Wayne and said I don't know what kind of predicament we are in but I guess we have bought the farm."

"We needed to preserve it. So much in this town has slipped away. We passed it but it wouldn't have happened without a guy like Wayne Clements."

Photo courtesy of Wayne Clements

Some Saline fourth graders pose with the bright, red former Grand Trunk Western caboose that sits beside the Saline Depot Museum.

Then Al Valentine sketched a little of the history of the Presbyterian Church in Saline.

"In 1976 this church had property out on Ann Arbor Road just north of where the Methodist Church is and we had seriously considered building there. But the congregation said we've been here so long, why do you want to do that?

"The church made a conscious decision, sold that property and renovated the facility here."

"The Erie Canal was completed in 1825 and that really opened up the northwest for settlement.

"In Newark, New York, in the Finger Lakes region between Syracuse and Rochester , along the canal was a Presbyterian Church. Four families from that church decided that it was then feasible to move to Michigan Territory.

"At a formal service in May 1831 they were dismissed from that church, formed their own congregation, said good-bye to neighbors, friends and relatives and got on a canal boat which took them to Lake Erie.

"Then they transferred their worldly goods to a sailing packet, sailed across Lake Erie and up the Detroit River and landed in Detroit about ten days later.

"They purchased horses, moved to Saline and bought land. That's where our church got started with eight adults and four children, 12 of them. A year later two other families joined the church, the year after that two more.

"By 1837 when Michigan became a state we had a congregation of more than 150 members. At the same time the Baptists and Methodists did essentially the same thing. This area had to have been really a boom area.

"Our church worshipped in homes and schools until 1842 when they built a wooden church which was used until 1898. There is some question about whether they bought the land for $150 or it was donated.

"In the fall of 1897 the minister looked at this wooden building and said we need a new church. They got contributions to a building fund.

"In June 1898 they jacked up the wooden building , rolled it down McKay Street and worshipped in it while they constructed the new brick church.

"They excavated a foundation and by July 31 they dedicated the cornerstone. They completed the church and dedicated it December 4,1898.

"I think one thing Wayne didn't know until I mentioned it was that the stones in the foundation of the church came from his family's centennial farm in Lodi Township where he lives.

"About 15 years ago we were designated a national historic site and we said why don't we become a state historic site also. I sent an inquiry to Lansing. We were well on our way but we couldn't agree with the state about the wording that was to be on the marker and dropped it.

"Now we have agreed on wording and the marker is on order. We expect it to be delivered in about a month. We will hold it until it can be dedicated."

They plan to renovate the sanctuary, then dedicate the marker and celebrate the centennial on dates to be announced.

"For the centennial celebration we plan to have a time capsule. We plan to have teen forum members interview some of the older persons in the congregation.

"George Austin, 91, is the oldest living member and Gertrude Cook, born October 16,1907, the longest living member. She is not related to the two Cook families who came here in 1831. She first attended Sunday School in 1910 and joined the church April 16,1922.

"We have three members who trace their ancestry back to ships that came from England in 1630 and 1635, the Finch and John Ruckman families. Seven generations have worshipped here. The sixth generation still do but the seventh have moved away.

DAYTON LURES KERRY, GALEN

There must be something about Dayton, Ohio. First comes word in May that Kerry Adams has resigned the WCHS Board of Directors to move to Dayton.

Then comes word in July that WCHS Past-President Galen Wilson and his wife Betsy are moving to--get this--Dayton, Ohio.

Kerry is giving up academic Ann Arbor and Galen, sunny California. What gives? We think it's the old houses.

Kerry who has been curator at Cobblestone Farm accepted a full-time position as site manager/curator of the Montgomery County Historical Society's Patterson Homestead at Dayton, his hometown. He was looking forward to a new attic and cellar to go through.

Galen, who has continued to hand letter WCHS anniversary certificates long distance, took a job transfer to the National Archives' Dayton office. The Wilsons exchanged a condo for an 1892 house with three porches and a claw foot bath tub in one of Dayton's seven historic districts.

CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Hand-lettered certificates, framed if desired, are offered free of charge, by WCHS to organizations, businesses, churches, schools etc., for milestone anniversaries. Information: (734) 663-8826.

SURVEY COMMENTS

Thanks to the readers who sent back the yellow cards telling us what they think of what we are doing. Some readers say they can't get out to meetings but they enjoy the *Washtenaw Impressions*.

There were favorable mentions of the *"What's It"* game, and the antiques appraisal event. One favorite program topic was John Allen and the early history of Ann Arbor. One reader planned to go on the stained glass tour since driving was not needed.

An out of town reader gets her *Impressions* too late to attend. That can be a problem with bulk mail but if so the reader may request earlier post card notice.

1998-99 OFFICERS ELECTED

Susan Wineberg was re-elected president of WCHS for 1998-99. Ina Hanel will serve as Vice-President and program chair assisted by Pam Newhouse.

Also re-elected were Patty Creal, treasurer; Judy Chrisman, recording secretary, Pauline Walters, corresponding secretary and Alice Ziegler, editor. Elected to three-year terms on the board were Rosemarion Blake, Ginny Hills, Tom Nanzig and Esther Warzynski.

Two members-at-large were elected to the Endowment Committee as stipulated in the By-laws. They are Dean Smith and Dr. Donald Smith.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Salem Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, September 26, annual barn dance in Moore-Moon barn on Eight Mile Road, Jack La Pan, caller. Donation to their Jarvis Stone School restoration fund.

Saline Society: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 23, at recently purchased Rentschler farm, 7640 E. Michigan Avenue where the Society plans to have a farm museum.

Webster Society: Fall festival Saturday, September 19, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the corner of Webster Church and Farrell Roads. Features pig roast dinner, hay rides, petting zoo, country store, crafts, music, restored blacksmith shop and one-room school.

Ypsilanti Society: Museum, 220 N. Huron, open 2-4 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Archives open 9 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday.

HOW TO JOIN

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to WCHS membership c/o Patty Creal, Treasurer, P.O.. Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336.

Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family, $25; student or senior (60+), $10; senior couple, $19; business/association, $50; patron, $100. Information: (734) 662-9092.

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Editor: Alice Ziegler, 663-8826
Address: 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Mailing: Pauline Walters, 663-2379
WCHS Office: (313) 662-9092
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Post Office Box 3336
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'ANN ARBOR IN THE GOLD RUSH'

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